



H.RES. 1356 – CELEBRATING THE 221ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1356 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Scott Garrett (R-NJ) on July 17, 2008. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved the bill by voice vote on September 10, 2008.

H.Res. 1356 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 17, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1356 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Celebrates the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America;
- Honors the efforts of the 42 delegates who attended the majority of the Constitutional Convention meetings and the 39 signers of the Constitution of the United States;
- Acknowledges the significance of the ideals established by the Constitution of the United States, including the principle of a limited Federal Government with a system of checks and balances between the 3 branches;
- Recognizes the Constitution of the United States as the source responsible for our Nation's ability to withstand calamity and preserve national stability, or as Thomas Jefferson wrote, 'Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written Constitution'; and
- Encourages the citizens of the United States of America, who have the privilege to share in the freedoms recognized in the Constitution of the United States, to join with the House of Representatives in this historic celebration.

BACKGROUND

After the Revolutionary War, the states were existing under the governance of the Articles of Confederation. In May of 1787, a convention with delegates from all thirteen colonies, except for Rhode Island, was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the convention, General George Washington was chosen to be the president of the convention. The delegates decided that the Articles of Confederation must be replaced with a new governing constitution.

Three months after the Philadelphia convention, later known as the Constitutional Convention, a "Great Compromise" was reached and on September 17, 1787, thirty-nine delegates from twelve states signed the Constitution of the United States of America. In order for the document to be accepted as the governing body of the thirteen colonies, nine states needed to adopt the Constitution. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution, and the government under the Articles of Confederation was officially ended. Rhode Island became the last and final state to accept the Constitution on May 29, 1790.

STAFF CONTACT

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